(b) whether it is also a fact that the said ship is 36 years old and had already outlived a major part of its service life; and

(c) if so, what are the specific reasons for the acquisition of that ship?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The Indian Navy acquired Indian Naval Ship (INS) Jalashwa (ex-USS Trenton) after a Joint Visual Inspection of the ship.

(b) and (c) The ship was 36 years old, but the Indian Navy assessed her residual life to be above 10 years. The ship can be used for amphibious operations as well as in disaster relief.

Delay in acquisiton of defence equipments

†2524. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that acquisition of defence equipment are getting delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons for such delay; and

(c) whether it is not possible to fix a time limit for defence acquisitions?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Government has promulgated Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2006 with effect from 1.9.2006 to ensure expeditious procurement of defence equipment. DPP-2006 has also included provisions to streamline the procurement procedure.

(c) DPP-2006 has included a broad time frame for procurement activities.

Exodus of scientists from DRDO

†2525. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred question 2343 given in the Rajya Sabha on 5th September, 2007 and state:

(a) the number of scientists resigned from DRDO during the last five years;

(b) the details of revised proposal submitted by Government to check exodus of scientists;

(c) the details of packages being provided to the scientists by private companies leaving DRDO; and

(d) the details of the proposal for scientists submitted by Government to Sixth Central Pay Commission?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The number of scientists resigned from DRDO in the last five years (2003-2007) is 1107.

(b) DRDO has submitted a comprehensive proposal of incentives for scientists and the details of the proposal are as under:—

- Authorisation of additional increments to scientist 'B' at the time of joining.
- Enhancement of professional update alllowance.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.